

SUBJECTS.

imitation impossible; and (3) the vigilance of the Police should be effectively increased and employed in detecting attempts at counterfeiting. The gain derived by the Government from the Mint might perhaps become reduced by raising the quality and weight of the metal, but, as the existing state of affairs was found to give encouragement to counterfeiters and also tended to the circulation of false coins all over the country, the Government should not grudge to forego the small gain, in view to safe-guard the interests of the people. The Member concluded by saying that there was an urgent necessity for reform in the matter.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be inquired into.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.**(1) Land Revenue.****A. Tharavilla on back-water reclamations.**

Mr. George Baker (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the reclamation of backwaters had been going on for several years. The Government recently raised the *tharavilla* or such reclamations from 1 Re. per acre to Rs. 25 per acre. The enhanced *tharavilla* was far above all possibility for any ryot to pay and resort to such cultivation. But instead of making the higher rate applicable to future reclaimers, the ryots who had gone in for such reclamations and had already reclaimed large areas, in the belief and hope that they would get them for one Rupee an acre, were being asked to pay *tharavilla* at Rs. 25 per acre. The ryots felt this as a heavy burden, especially because, unlike ordinary cultivations, one had to go in for large areas in the case of backwater reclamations to get any profit, and if the higher rate were insisted on, future reclamations would be impossible. The Member said that he could not perceive the reason for the action of the Government in trying to stop paddy cultivation, when it could not supply itself with all the paddy or rice it required, but had to import the latter in large quantities from year to year. Instead of helping the ryots to extend the area of such cultivation and encouraging reclamations by affording them all facilities, it was regrettable that the Government should have raised the *tharavilla* to 25 times what it was. The Member promised to collect and furnish information as to what it would cost on an average to reclaim an acre, taking a large area into account. He requested that the Government might be pleased to take the above facts into consideration and reduce the *tharavilla* to the original rate of one rupee per acre.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.